

**Remarks**

Claims 19-23 are now present in this application, with original claims 1-18 being cancelled. It should be noted that the cancellation of the original claims 1-18 of the present application are not to overcome any statutory considerations. New claims 19-23 are added to further clarify the present invention.

**Conclusion**

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 19-23 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

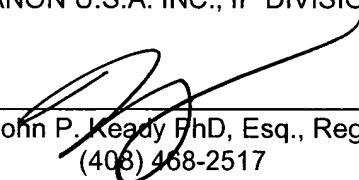
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John P. Keady at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502456 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

CANON U.S.A. INC., IP DIVISION

By:

  
John P. Keady PhD, Esq., Reg. No. 56,389  
(408) 468-2517

JPK/tt